

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SUDAN'S NIMEIRI HALF-HEARTEDLY OFFERS TO HELP

NIMEIRI HAS SENT IDENTICAL LETTERS TO KENYATTA AND AMIN
EXPRESSING HIS CONCERN AT THE CONTINUING TENSION AND OFFER-
ING HIS GOOD OFFICES TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFICULTIES.
EMBASSY KHARTOUM COMMENTS THAT PUBLICATION OF THE LETTERS
BY A KHARTOUM DAILY SUGGESTS THAT NIMEIRI DOES NOT SERIOUSLY
EXPECT HIS OFFER TO BE ACCEPTED, BUT RATHER SEEKS TO BURNISH
HIS DOMESTIC IMAGE AS A REGIONAL STATESMAN. (CONFIDENTIAL)
KHARTOUM 2263, 7/30.

2. ITALY: ANDREOTTI HAMMERS TOGETHER A GOOD CABINET

EMBASSY ROME COMMENTS THAT THE PROPOSED ANDREOTTI CABINET
IS VERY ATTRACTIVE IN THE ITALIAN POLITICAL CONTEXT. THE

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NEW GOVERNMENT:

--REFLECTS THE EXISTING FACTIONAL BALANCE WITHIN THE
DC;

--PRESENTS A FRESH AND YOUTHFUL IMAGE; AND

--PLACES THE MINISTRIES OF MOST CONCERN TO THE US--
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENSE AND INTERIOR--IN GOOD HANDS.

ANDREOTTI IS EXPECTED TO PRESENT THE CABINET TO THE
SENATE, WHERE APPROVAL IS LIKELY, ON AUGUST 3 OR 4, AND TO
THE CHAMBER, WHERE THE OUTLOOK IS LESS CERTAIN. ON AUGUST
9. (CONFIDENTIAL) ROME 12389, 7/30.

3. ISRAEL: DOOR AJAR FOR LEBANESE WORKERS

AS PART OF ITS LIMITED OPEN DOOR POLICY WITH SOUTHERN
LEBANON, THE ISRAELI CABINET APPROVED JULY 25 THE RECRUIT-
MENT OF 100 LEBANESE AS TEMPORARY HARVEST WORKERS IN
NORTHERN GALILEE. EMBASSY TEL AVIV NOTES THAT, IN VIEW OF
THREATENED PLO REPRISALS AGAINST THOSE ACCEPTING ISRAELI
HELP, FEW LEBANESE ARE LIKELY TO SEEK SUCH EMPLOYMENT.
(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) TEL AVIV 5266, 7/30.

4. SPAIN: KING FORGIVES POLITICAL TRESPASSERS

INTERIOR UNDER SECRETARY BORDAS TOLD EMBASSY MADRID JULY
30 THAT THE AMNESTY IS AN ACT OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION
THAT WILL END THE LEGAL EFFECTS OF THE CIVIL WAR. THE
EMBASSY COMMENTS THAT THE AMNESTY IS GENEROUS BY ANY
OBJECTIVE MEASURE AND ILLUSTRATES THE GOVERNMENT'S CON-
SENSUAL APPROACH. DESPITE SOME INEVITABLE CRITICISM FROM
THE LEFT, IT WILL BE WELL RECEIVED BY THE OPPOSITION.
(CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 5838, 7/30.

5. MALAYSIA: TURNING DOWN THE SOVIET HARD-SELL

EMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR REPORTS THAT PREMIER HUSSEIN ONN HAS
DECIDED TO CANCEL IMPENDING NEGOTIATIONS FOR A HYDRO-
ELECTRIC PROJECT THAT THE SOVIETS HAD BEEN PUSHING. THE
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GOM ALSO:

--REJECTED SEVERAL SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR JOINT EN-
DEAVORS;

--CANCELED THE VISAS OF SOVIET ACADEMICS IN MALAY-
SIA; AND

--IS IRRITATED BY MOSCOW'S CHARACTERISTIC HARD-SELL
AND ITS HEAVY-HANDED INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

EMBASSY COMMENT: HUSSEIN'S REJECTION OF A MAJOR RUSSIAN
ROLE IN MALAYSIA IS AN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN EQUIDISTANCE

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BETWEEN THE MAJOR COMMUNIST POWERS. THE GOM WANTS TO
AVOID ANYTHING THAT WOULD INCITE PEKING TO INCREASE ITS
SUPPORT FOR COMMUNIST INSURGENTS OR TO COMPETE WITH THE
SOVIETS FOR INFLUENCE OR PRESENCE IN MALAYSIA. THUS,
RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW ARE LIKELY TO REMAIN CHILLY UNLESS
THE SOVIETS GIVE UP THEIR HARD-SELL TACTICS.
(SECRET) KUALA LUMPUR 4346, 7/9.

6. JAPAN CONFUSED BY PHILIPPINE DEMANDS FOR NEW TREATY

A FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE TOLD EMBASSY TOKYO THAT JAPAN IS
PUZZLED ABOUT THE REASONS FOR THE PHILIPPINES' ABRUPT CALL
FOR RENEGOTIATION OF THE CURRENT TREATY OF AMITY, COMMERCE
AND NAVIGATION. THE JAPANESE BELIEVE MANILA SEEKS:

--TERMINATION OF JAPAN'S MOST-FAVORED-NATION STATUS;

--JAPANESE RECOGNITION OF THE PHILIPPINES' "HISTORICAL
WATERS" CLAIM (WHICH TOKYO CONSIDERS UNACCEPTABLE);AND

--AN END TO THE RECIPROCAL "NATIONAL TREATMENT" FOR
JAPANESE AND PHILIPPINE FLAG VESSELS IN EACH OTHER'S
PORTS, AND TO DOUBLE TAXATION.

JAPAN IS WILLING TO RENEGOTIATE THE TREATY AND SEES
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MANILA'S DEMANDS AS PART OF THE PHILIPPINES' MOVEMENT
TOWARD CLOSER TIES WITH THE OTHER ASEAN STATES AND THE
NONALIGNED. (CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 11525, 7/30. KISSINGER

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